

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 126825
ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 EB-08 IO-13 OES-07 ACDA-12 /118 R

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APPROVED BY ARA/CCA:WSSMITH

AF/E-KWAUCHOPE

-----056383 200923Z /13

R 182005Z MAY 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

INFO USINT HAVANA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PEPR, SU, US, CU

SUBJECT: US-CUBAN RELATIONS

REF: KHARTOUM 2130

1. YOU MAY PROVIDE KHIDIR FOLLOWING SUMMARY OF US-CUBAN
RELATIONS IN RESPONSE TO HIS REQUEST:

2. CASTRO CAME TO POWER IN 1959 WITH AVOWED PURPOSE OF
EXPORTING HIS REVOLUTION TO REST OF LATIN AMERICA. GIVEN
AGGRESSIVE OUTTHRUSTING ON CUBA'S PART, INCLUDING EFFORTS
TO OVERTHROW ESTABLISHED GOVERNMENTS, OTHER OAS MEMBERS,
INCLUDING US, REACTED WITH DEFENSIVE POLICY AIMED AT
ISOLATING CUBA. US-CUBAN RELATIONS DURING DECADE OF THE
SIXTIES WERE CHARACTERIZED BY TENSIONS, WHICH REACHED
HIGHEST POINT DURING 1962 MISSILE CRISIS.

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3. CASTRO'S EFFORTS TO EXPORT REVOLUTION IN THIS HEMI-
SPHERE FAILED. WITH CHE GUEVARA'S DEFEAT AND DEATH IN
BOLIVIA IN 1967, CASTRO BEGAN TO DEEMPHASIZE EXPORT OF
REVOLUTION AS A POLICY AND ARMED STRUGGLE AS A TACTIC IN
THIS HEMISPHERE. LATIN AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS WHICH HAD
ONCE FELT THEMSELVES TO BE TARGETS OF CUBAN POLICY BEGAN

TO REESTABLISH TRADE AND DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH HAVANA.
AS A RESULT OF THIS SHIFT IN CUBAN POLICIES, IN 1975 OAS
LIFTED ITS MULTI-LATERAL SANCTIONS AGAINST CUBA, LEAVING
IT TO DISCRETION OF EACH MEMBER STATE AS TO WHETHER OR
NOT IT WISHED TO MAINTAIN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH HAVANA.

4. THE US DOES NOT HAVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CUBA
AND IT IS UNLIKELY THAT SUCH RELATIONS WILL BE RE-
ESTABLISHED IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE. IN MARCH OF 1977,
HOWEVER, THE TWO COUNTRIES ENGAGED IN FIRST FACE-TO-FACE
OFFICIAL NEGOTIATIONS IN OVER SIXTEEN YEARS, RESULTING
IN SIGNING OF FISHERY AND MARITIME BOUNDARY AGREEMENTS.
IN SAME MONTH, TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS WERE LIFTED; AMERICAN
CITIZENS CAN AGAIN TRAVEL TO CUBA. SEVERAL THOUSAND
HAVE DONE SO, INCLUDING A NUMBER OF US CONGRESSMEN. IN
SEPTEMBER OF 1977, US AND CUBA ESTABLISHED INTERESTS
SECTIONS IN ONE ANOTHER'S CAPITALS WITH A VIEW TO
FACILITATING COMMUNICATIONS AND PROVIDING EXPANDED CON-
SULAR SERVICES (AN IMPORTANT POINT SINCE US CITIZENS WERE
ONCE AGAIN VISITING CUBA IN SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS).

5. THE US EMBARGO AGAINST TRADE WITH CUBA REMAINS IN
FORCE. THERE IS NO DIRECT TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO
COUNTRIES. THE US DOES NOT INTEND TO CONSIDER A LIFTING
OF THE EMBARGO UNTIL A NUMBER OF SERIOUS PROBLEMS BETWEEN
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THE TWO GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEEN SOLVED. ONE OF MOST
SERIOUS IS MATTER OF CUBAN MILITARY INTERVENTIONS IN
AFRICA.

6. US NEGOTIATORS MADE CLEAR TO CUBANS FROM FIRST TALKS
IN MARCH THAT CUBAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN AFRICA WAS A
MATTER OF CONCERN TO US WHICH WOULD AFFECT BILATERAL
RELATIONS AND AFFECT PACE AT WHICH NORMALIZATION PROCESS
MOVED FORWARD, OR, INDEED, WHETHER IT MOVED FORWARD AT
ALL. IT WAS MADE CLEAR TO THEM THAT REPETITION OF MILI-
TARY ADVENTURE IN AFRICA ON SCALE OF ANGOLA WOULD PRO-
BABLY HAVE EFFECT OF FREEZING PROCESS. DESPITE THAT,
CUBANS MOVED AHEAD IN INCREASING THEIR TROOP STRENGTH IN
ANGOLA AND THEN IN INTERVENING ON LARGE SCALE IN ETHIOPIA.
ACCORDINGLY, NORMALIZATION PROCESS HAS BEEN VIRTUALLY
FROZEN. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, BRIEFING MATERIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 may 1978
Decapton Date: 01 jan 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE126825
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WSSMITH:YT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780212-0944
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780543/aaaabkpm.tel
Line Count: 110
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4487169b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 KHARTOUM 2130
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2648013
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-CUBAN RELATIONS
TAGS: PEPR, SU, US, CU
To: KHARTOUM
Type: TE
vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4487169b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014